

REMARKS

The present application has been the subject of an appeal before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, Appeal No. 2002-1913. In addition, the decision of the Board was appealed to the Federal Circuit. The Federal Circuit has now acted and affirmed the Board. However, the Board reversed the Patent Office in a number of respects. The claims in the present application have been amended to reflect the decision of the Board.

In particular, the Board reversed the rejection of claim 27. Claim 27 has now been incorporated into claim 1 and is therefore allowable. In addition, the Board reversed the rejections of claims 8, 9, 10 and 14. Therefore, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Finally, claim 30 is a rewrite of claim 29 which was rejected, but was reversed by the Board. There were a number of Section 112 rejections that went to the Board. The Applicant conceded the 112 rejection with respect to the use of "it" in claim 8. Claim 8 has been corrected accordingly. The Examiner conceded a number of other 112 rejections. Claim 28 was rejected under Section 112, but has been canceled.

It is believed that the present response places this application in condition for allowance. It is the Intent of the Applicant to place the application in condition for allowance consistent with the decision of the Board of Appeals and the Federal Circuit. If perchance counsel for Applicant has overlooked any required amendments to the claims in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned and counsel for Applicant will cooperate with the Examiner in placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/9/04